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COCOM Doc. 3494

April 20, 1959

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MEMORANDUM BY
THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION
Concerning
UNITED STATES PROPOSAL TO EXPORT
TEFLON INSULATING TAPE TO POLAND

References: COCOM Documents 3402, 3407, 3431, 3449 and 3461

1. The Committee will recall that on February 25, 1959, the United States Delegate submitted a document (numbered 3431) stating that the technical name for Teflon is tetrafluoroethylene. On March 9, the Delegate of France stated in the Committee that the correct name for Teflon in the form of insulating tape is polytetrafluoroethylene.

2. The United States Delegation has been informed by its authorities that Teflon is a trade mark name owned by E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company. The du Pont Company chooses to identify as "Teflon" a tetrafluoroethylene resin or tetrafluoroethylene fiber, etc. depending on the product form. Accepted practice in describing resins has been to use the names polyethylene or polytetrafluoroethylene although it is understood that the product Teflon by arbitrary definition is tetrafluoroethylene resin. The United States has no objection to the use of "polytetrafluoroethylene" or "tetrafluoroethylene resin" in describing the strategic resin formed by the polymerization of the chemical tetrafluoroethylene.

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